



July 20, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM (ECFS)

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Communication, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206
GN Docket Nos. 09-51; MB Docket No. 09-13; MB Docket No. 10-91; CS
Docket No. 97-80; PP Docket No. 00-67; WC Docket No. 07-245; CC Docket
No. 02-6; WC Docket No. 02-60**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 19, 2010, Steve Traylor, the Executive Director and General Counsel of NATOA and I met with Christine Kurth, Policy Director and Wireline Counsel for Commissioner Robert McDowell.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Mr. Traylor and to give a brief overview of some of the issues of concern for NATOA and its members before the Commission. Specifically, we discussed the pending PEG Petitions, the importance of PEG channels to the public safety community, and the ability of municipalities to gain access to utility owned poles under Section 224. We also discussed NATOA's position that local government anchor institution networks should be eligible to receive E-Rate funding from schools and libraries connected to those networks and NATOA's support of the Commission's proposal to allow E-Rate funds to be used to lease dark fiber. Finally, we very briefly discussed the recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Rural Healthcare Support Mechanism.

Pursuant to Commission rules, please include a copy of this notice in the record for the proceedings noted above.

Sincerely,
/s/ Matthew R. Johnson
Matthew R. Johnson
Legal Fellow
NATOA

Cc: Christine D. Kurth



PEG Channels are Essential to Local Government Public Safety Systems

NATOA recently filed comments in response to Public Notice 10-60 asserting that Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) Channels must receive equal treatment as compared to commercial channels on the multichannel video programming distributor (“MVPD”) system. One of the reasons for this is the vital role that PEG stations play in potential emergency and public safety situations in our nation’s communities. Here are some examples of the important role fulfilled by PEG stations:

- Ann Arundel, MD: EOC and government access center co-located, with the ability to immediately override the government access channel with emergency information.
- Brunswick, ME: The channel’s operations system allows override of programming and places announcements on the access channel. The EOC and Public Safety Dispatch center are trained in the use of the system.
- Contra Costa, CA: Government access channel is part of the County's Community Warning System (CWS). The CWS is intended to alert the community in the event of a toxic release that may cause injury to the public. The channel is also instrumental in the outreach efforts to promote cellular and text-based warning message subscriptions.
- Richmond, CA: Uses software that can send a crawl out over the channel. The PEG channel is the first call-out during a disaster and can phone the information into the TV and radio stations (as long as they are up), then staff responds to the EOC during an activation and continues to glean the information from there for public distribution. Depending on the size of the emergency, they carry the information on TV, the local TIS radio station they operate and their website.
- Rialto, CA: Government access channel staff is in the EOC during emergencies. The station assists with public safety training and posts police or fire department information on channel, Web site and Facebook.
- Surprise, AZ: Channel has an emergency e-mail/SMS notification system for Amber alerts, missing persons, and public safety alerts. When an alert is sent out, it is automatically shown on the PEG channel as a crawl. The EOC has direct connection with the communications department and has full resources of TV, web, and the media if deemed necessary.



- Austin, TX: The EOC can override the government access channel with critical content in an emergency.
- Mentor, OH: Emergency dispatchers can publish messages to the government access channel even when channel staff is not present.
- New Jersey: The Jersey Access Group provides an instructional video on enhancing the effectiveness of an access station for emergency notification (<http://jagonline.org/gallery/>).
- El Segundo, CA: PEG stations are an integral part of the communication systems for residents. During any emergency when the EOC is activated PEG is a part of community notification reporting to assigned EOC PIO officers. They distribute to local cable and radio. This allows a coordinated message to go out to all resources. They display a lot of local information and have participated in all disaster drills. They also have a Community Alert they coordinate with the police department to put on the channel's bulletin system and between programs that notify residents of any potential safety issues, crime bulletins, etc.